

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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PARIS FOR UNESCO, ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM AND COUNTRY
REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 72386

1. EXTRA 69TH SESSION FAO COUNCIL MET JULY 12-16 IN ROME
AND APPROVED FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA'S PROPOSED RE-
VISIONS IN PROGRAMS, STRUCTURE AND POLICIES OF THE
ORGANIZATION. THE NEW DG ACCENTUATED IN HIS PROPOSALS,
AND AT THE COUNCIL, FAO'S OVERRIDING DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE
PROPORTIONATELY MORE HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRY LEVEL THAN AT EITHER THE REGIONAL OR
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HEADQUARTERS LEVELS. THE USG SUPPORTS, IN PRINCIPLE,

THE SPIRIT OF THESE INTENTIONS TO MAKE FAO MORE EFFECTIVE IN ASSISTING LDC EFFORTS TO INCREASE THEIR FOOD PRODUCTION, A NEED EARLIER UNDERScoreD AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1974. THE PRINCIPAL POLICY AND PROGRAM CHANGES PROPOSED BY DG SAOUMA, AND APPROVED WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS BY A FEW DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT OF THE 69TH SESSION, ARE: (1) AN DOLS 18.5 MILLION TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM AND (2) GRADUALLY APPOINTING FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WHERE DESIRED BY

HOST GOVERNMENTS, FULLY FUNDED BY THE FAO REGULAR PROGRAM AND UNDER THE FAO'S DIRECT AUTHORITY. SINCE THESE CHANGES WILL HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL IMPACT ON FAO'S EVOLVING ROLE WITHIN THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH UNDP, THIS INFORMATION MESSAGE MAY BE USEFUL GUIDANCE. IN ADDITION, WE INTEND TO REQUEST IN CERP 0008 (REFTEL) GUIDELINES FOR 1977 THAT WHERE APPROPRIATE POSTS SHOULD SUBMIT A BRIEF STATUS REPORT, DUE IN APRIL 1977, ON DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THESE RECENT FAO DECISIONS.

2. FAO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP)

THE 69TH SESSION APPROVED A NEW TCP OF DOLS 18.5 MILLION DERIVED FROM SAVINGS (CHIEFLY FROM ELIMINATION OF POSITIONS, MEETINGS AND PUBLICATIONS) WITHIN THE DOLS 167 MILLION BUDGET APPROVED BY THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1975. FORMER FAO DG BOERMA HAD BASED HIS PROPOSED 1976-77 REGULAR BUDGET ON MAJOR NEW HEADQUARTER INITIATIVES AND STAFF RESPONSIVE TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS. DR. SAOUMA, IN HIS RECASTING, WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE, BUT PRAGMATICALLY FEELS FAO ACTION MUST BE CONCENTRATED MORE AT COUNTRY LEVEL AND FOCUSED TO A GREATER EXTENT ON ACTION ORIENTED PROGRAMS.

A. PURPOSE

COUNCIL HAS AGREED TCP TO BE USED FOR FOUR PURPOSES: (1) TO CATALYZE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS NOT COVERED BY UNDRO AND WFP; (2) TO STIMULATE GREATER FLOW OF INVESTMENT TO LDC'S; (3) TO INTENSIFY TRAINING AT PRACTICAL, UNCLASSIFIED

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GRASS ROOTS LEVEL; AND (4) TO PROVIDE SMALL-SCALE ASSISTANCE TO MEET UNFORESEEN REQUIREMENTS OF SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL VALUE OR TO FACILITATE THE FLOW OF LARGER AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING MULTI-BILATERAL PROGRAMS.

B. CRITERIA

COUNCIL AGREED TO (1) ESTABLISH A PROJECT CEILING OF DOLS 250,000 WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND MSA COUNTRIES FOR ALLOCATION; (2) LIMIT PROJECTS TO A MAXIMUM DURATION OF ONE YEAR; (3) GRANT FAO DG AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PROJECTS CONSISTENT WITH COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE-APPROVED GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES; (4) ENCOURAGE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS TO SHARE PROJECT RESOURCE SUPPORT TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE; (5) LIMIT TOTAL AMOUNT FOR EMERGENCIES TO DOLS 2.5 MILLION; AND (6) REVIEW CRITERIA AS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED.

C. USG POSITION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TCP WAS AT INITIATIVE OF DG SAOUMA BUT IN ACCORD WITH THE FAO 18TH CONFERENCE CALL. DURING SAOUMA'S SPRING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND AT 69TH SESSION, USG INFORMED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF U.S. TRADITIONAL POLICY THAT (1) UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS BEST FUNDED FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND NOT ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS; (2) UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND THE 1970 CONSENSUS FORM THE BEDROCK OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; AND (3) SHOULD TCP COME INTO BEING, FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NEED COLLABORATE CLOSELY SO THAT THE TCP COULD SUPPORT THE OVERALL, MULTISECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN EACH LDC. AS STATED IN THE RECENT COUNCIL SESSION, THE USG VIEWS THE TCP AS EXPERIMENTAL, BUT PINPOINTED IN THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOOD SECTOR. SHOULD FAO PROPOSE TO THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1977 TO CONTINUE THE TCP DURING 1978-79, AS NOW APPEARS LIKELY, USG SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD IN PART BE DEPENDENT UPON THE ABILITY OF FAO TO UTILIZE TCP RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY IN PROJECTS WHICH ADVANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ARE A PART

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OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS. WE DO NOT EXPECT NEW TCP PROJECTS TO BE A PROBLEM, SINCE THE UNDP RES REP IS REGARDED BY FAO AS PRIMUS INTER PARES ON DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL AND THE FAO COUNCIL HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA WILL GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO COORDINATION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE 1970 CONSENSUS.

3. FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFFICE IN JANUARY 1976, AND RESPONDING TO EARLIER PRONOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE ON ENDING GRADUALLY THE JOINT UNDP/FAO FUNDING OF THE 62 SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS/

FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES WHICH CURRENTLY ARE AUTHORIZED. DATING BACK OVER A DECADE, UNDP HAD FINANCED TWO-THIRDS OF THE COST OF THESE OFFICERS, WITH FAO COVERING THE BALANCE FROM ITS REGULAR BUDGET. THE ARRANGEMENT (LATEST REVISION IN THE 1971 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE UNDP RES REP WITH CONTINUING, HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTISE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1977, FAO DESIRES TO FULLY FUND A MINIMUM OF 15 OF THESE POSITIONS AND BY 1979 TO FINANCE ALL SUCH OFFICERS REQUIRED. RECIPIENT COUNTRY DESIRES WILL BE RESPECTED. AS IS THE PRACTICE WITH THE U.S. COUNTRY TEAM WHERE VARIOUS USG AGENCIES COVER THE FULL SALARY OF THEIR OFFICER AND A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LOGISTIC AND SPACE COSTS WITHIN THE EMBASSY, IT WOULD BE HOPED THAT THE FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF FACILITIES OF THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES' OFFICES, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SO DESIRES, EVEN THOUGH THEIR SALARIES WILL BE FUNDED FULLY BY FAO. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD FACILITATE MORE EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMIC USE OF POUCH AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND AID CLOSE FAO/UNDP COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING SYSTEM. SHARING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH THE FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES' OBLIGATION TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO FAO.

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MORE PRECISE FAO/UNDP ARRANGEMENTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO AND THEIR RECENT COMMENTS TO THE FAO COUNCIL GIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE. IT CONTINUES TO BE A USG OBJECTIVE FOR FIELD PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UN FAMILY TO BE CLOSELY COORDINATED AND TO BENEFIT FROM CONTRIBUTIONS BY HOST GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING FACILITIES AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT.

4. SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES IN MONTHS AHEAD DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THOSE GENERALIZED ABOVE, AND THE CONCERNED MISSION DEEMS A STATUS REPORT PRIOR TO CERP 0008 FOR 1977 APPROPRIATE, IT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

5. MANILA AND ABIDJAN: PLEASE PASS TO U.S. OFFICIALS IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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